



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

October 2009, Volume 70 Number 8

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## Consider Sharing Your Talents in a Position on the HARC Executive



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

### Executive

President - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	826-7831	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
First V.P. - Dick, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Secretary - Helen MacRae, VE1HMR	422-7119	hmacrae@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		ve1dtr@rac.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government liaison - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
QSL Bureau Mgr - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
EMO Trailer coordinator - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhedickson@eastlink.ca
Membership - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhedickson@eastlink.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
2009 Flea market Chair - Tom Gaum, VE1BMJ	445-8103	tgaum2@ns.sympatico.ca
Field Day coordinator - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca
Safety Officer - Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB		ve1trb@eastlink.ca
NSARA Director - VACANT		
Honorary Legal Counsel - Paul Radford, VE1ARH		

### Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Len Morgan, VE9MY	(506) 847-5656	lmorgan@nbnet.nb.ca
RAC Section Manager - Jim Langille, VE1JBL	(902) 667-1485	ve1jbl@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

#### **NOTE: There have been some changes.**

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, **or you want to join**, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

October 18	Bruce	VE1MLW
October 25	Win	VE1WIN
Nov. 1	Charles	VE1MCR
Nov. 8	Doug	VE1LDL
Nov. 15	Bruce	VE1MLW
Nov. 23	Win	VE1WIN



### Deadline for submissions to the November Reflector is Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009

Photos in this issue are by or courtesy of Howard, VE1DHD and Bob, VE1PQ

### Tools Explained:

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST  
*A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.*



The Monthly General Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM) in the **Saint Andrews Recreation Center**.

Guests are welcome

### NOTICE OF MOTION

The required second vote will be called on the motion to purchase 2 radio cards and 2 audio delay modules for the VE1PSR controller. One set will be used to support Echolink and the other will be held for a spare.

#### MOTION:

That 2 radio cards and 2 audio delay modules be purchased for the RLC3 controller at VE1PSR. The cost not to exceed \$1000.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

There will be a second vote on a motion that the H.A.R.C. cover the 2009 DX Forum's deficit of slightly more than \$900. (see Sept. Minutes pg.7)

### GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:

EMO Net: **CANCELLED** for summer  
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM on  
147.270 + (VE1PSR/VHF)

#### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

#### PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

*Up-Coming Events*

Thursday, the 17th September at 7:00 PM (1900 hours) – the 2009 Basic Amateur Radio Licence Course began. Course coordinator is Barry Diggins, VE1TRI by phone at 861-3719 or email [ve1tri@rac.ca](mailto:ve1tri@rac.ca)

Oct.17 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

October 17 – Greenwood Fleamarket

If you are interested in helping out with event planning or participating please contact the Events Committee Chair, Don, VE1DTR, at:

[ve1dtr@rac.ca](mailto:ve1dtr@rac.ca) or  
Home (902) 823-1888 or  
cell (902) 497-5244

**Christmas Dinner**

Mark your calendar for December 16 to be at the Steak and Stein, Young St. Halifax for the HARC Christmas Dinner. Details will be available in November.

**ADVANCED QUALIFICATION**

There are some people looking to start an Advanced Amateur session. Jeff, VE1ZAC will conduct this class. If you are interested please contact Jeff, VE1ZAC:

[jhsmith@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jhsmith@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Caution**

Did you hear what happened to our speaker Bob Scofield after the last HARC meeting? While at the HARC meeting his car (parked along the side fence across from the entrance), had its rear window smashed in and a laptop in the back was stolen. Glad the thieves are not into ham radio: Rich's MkV was in the rear of Fred's car (fully visible) at that time! **Be warned! Do not keep valuables in your car while you are at the meetings.**

*Thanks to Fred, VE1FA, for this "heads up". Not that any parking lot is entirely safe but be aware that "the Well" is beside St. Andrews parking lot. -ed*

**HARC Needs You**

Club members are asked to please call a Nominating Committee member if they wish to volunteer for any position, or wish to recommend anyone for a position.

Nominating Committee members, their phone and email data are:

David Nimmo, VE1NN,  
462-3945 (h) [ve1nn@rac.ca](mailto:ve1nn@rac.ca)  
Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO  
865-4198 [ve1wo@rac.ca](mailto:ve1wo@rac.ca)  
Tom Caithness, VE1GTC  
477-7081  
[tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)**

October 17 & 18 will mark the 52nd worldwide Scouting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Held the third full weekend in October each year, this is the premier operating event for Amateur Radio and Scouting around the world. Contact Doug, VE1LDL, to help out with this year's event.

*4 out of 3 people  
have trouble with fractions*

**Greenwood Fleamarket**

Date: 17 OCT 2009 (Saturday)  
Time: 10:00AM – 01:00PM (Open 08:00AM To Sellers)

Place: Greenwood Community Center, Church Street, Greenwood, NS

Cost: Admission \$3.00.  
Tables Free To Sellers

GPS Coordinates: N44° 58.512' W064° 55.612'

Talk In: VE1WN 147.240+

To Book Tables or Get Info Contact: Burt - VE1AMA

Email: [ve1ama@eastlink.ca](mailto:ve1ama@eastlink.ca)  
Home phone: 902-847-7073  
Carol VE1ICY [velicy@rac.ca](mailto:velicy@rac.ca)

Jentronics Limited will attend.

For more info check our website  
<http://greenwoodarc.org/>

*Silent Key*

Eric Davidson, VE1CBS, of Halifax

*Silent Key*

Frank Carr VE1IGE died June 28 2009 Frank was a firefighter with Halifax Fire.

From the ARRL Letter for Oct.8, 2009

**New Rules on Ontario Roadways**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation announced on Sept.30 that Bill 118 concerning distracted driving will take effect on Oct.26, 2009. According to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Vice President for Public Relations Peter West, VE3HG, the new law makes it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or e-mail using handheld cell phones and other handheld communications and entertainment devices. Following a 3-month period that begins October 26 where the focus will be on educating drivers, police will start issuing tickets on February 1, 2010. "**All two-way radios in all vehicles -- with the exception of emergency responding vehicles -- must be hands-free in three years' time,**" he posted on the RAC's blog. "This news comes from the official government staffer who has been in communications with Radio Amateurs of Canada over the last year. At the end of the 3-year exemption, all commercial, CB and Amateur Radio equipment used in moving vehicles by the vehicle operator must be hands-free in operation."

And if you are at loose ends in Portugal on November 15

The A.R.V.M. is organizing the XII Exposition Ham Fair in Lisboa.

Come to one of the biggest events of Hamradio in Portugal

"Our goal is, beyond the good deals in new and second hand ham radio equipment, to proporcionate a nice get together to all OM's".

+ INFO: <http://www.arvm.org/index.fr2009.html>

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – October**

There is an old saying – “Safety is no accident”. As hams we are subject to a varied potential of situations that, if handled incorrectly, can lead to property damage, injury or even death. At HARC we have been fortunate that we have been accident free as long as I can recall. This record is in a large way the result of the emphasis placed upon safety, and in particular the work of Terry (VE1TRB) and his committee. Recently I have had the opportunity of acquiring a copy of the Safe Work Practice – Amateur Radio Operators Working At Height. This policy has been developed by Terry with input from the HRM EMO Amateur Radio Advisory Committee. Although this safe work practice document applies to all amateur radio operators while working on HRM property (St. Andrews Center is included), it certainly should be the basis for all work undertaken by hams above the ground. How often do we read of the death of an amateur radio operator while working on his antenna system, such was the case of an American ham during the recent field day exercise? I would encourage you to obtain a copy of this Policy, read it and follow it. A copy will be posted on the bulletin board at the Club and also can be found on the EMO website.

On another front, a number of your executive has decided not to reoffer for the coming year with the result that a number of vacancies were identified. Despite the efforts of Dave (VE1NN), Tom (VE1TOM) and Fraser (VE1WO) (your nomination Committee) a number of vacancies still exist. With over 155 members, surely there are a number who would be willing to place their name in consideration. This committee has a thankless and unappreciated job to do and any effort on your part will certainly be appreciated.

73, Murray, VE1MMD

**Basic Amateur Radio Licence Course 2009** from Barry, VE1TRI

Amateur radio is alive and well in this year's fall 2009 Amateur Radio licence Course. There are nineteen motivated registered students in this year's course from various backgrounds & professions, but all with a big desire to get their call sign and become active amateurs on the HF and VHF/UHF bands.

There have been four classes conducted upstairs in the club classroom of the HARC. One may have noticed the unique table and chair settings when arriving on Saturday mornings along with unique circuit diagrams and formulas and other scribbling on the blackboard or as it is known now a whiteboard.

The first four lessons have gone very well and all the teachers/instructors have intrigued their interest.

If anyone is called upon to act as an Elmer? Please consider doing so. Most of the students do not need much theoretical or technical coaching, only as it applies to amateur radio. However, there always exists a need for radio protocol and real hands on experience in order to make a FB QSO on all the bands. This mentoring is never forgotten by the new ham even when he becomes an experienced OM or YL operator many decades later.

There also has been a significant number of enquiries to run a self directed tutorial / winters self-study session.

In this year's class there have been at least two students who have specifically asked about CW instruction and guidance.

Our class bodes well for the future of ham radio!

RAC Bulletin 2009-032E - Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm. 2009-10-07

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States. Amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the US have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, thus no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory @ rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Send questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS to <regulatory @ rac.ca>.

Richard Ferch, VE3KI Vice President, Regulatory Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada





**Brendan McDonald, VA3BJM,  
Winner of the  
2009 Brit Fader Scholarship**

Brendan McDonald, VA3BJM of Dryden, Ont. was awarded a scholarship of \$1,000.00 from **The Brit Fader Scholarship** Trust in September, 2009.

The scholarship will help towards the cost of Brendan attending University of Ottawa to pursue a degree in linguistics and psychology leading towards a career in audiology. Brendan's uncle, Scott Moody, VA3EXT, got him started on amateur radio. Brendan obtained his ham license when he was 12 and operated daily on HF to places around the world. His interests in amateur radio, electronics, math and physics developed into a passion for wave, electronic and technical disciplines which are included in his intended career in audiology. Brendan has been a volunteer in Dryden in both music and amateur related activities.

The Brit Fader Scholarship was founded by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) and this is the second scholarship awarded. It is a registered charity in Canada and tax deductible donations may be made payable to Brit Fader Scholarship Trust accompanied by a donation form found on the HARC website.

The scholarship is open to application by Canadian licensed radio amateurs to pursue post-secondary studies and is expected to be continued to be awarded on an annual basis.

Information and application forms are available on the HARC website:  
[www.halifax-arc.org/](http://www.halifax-arc.org/)

The Brit Fader Scholarship fund was established to honour the memory of LeBreton J. W. (Brit) Fader, VE1FQ, and his 50 years of contribution to and involvement with amateur radio. The first Brit Fader Scholarship was awarded in 2008 and was announced at the HARC 75th Anniversary celebration in August. The winner was Joe Koechl, VA3KOE.



Cultured diamonds are the real thing even though they are grown in a boxy machine in a lab. The process, developed in Russia, starts with a seed of natural diamond dust inside a pressure capsule 50 cm in diameter. The capsule is filled with a flux of pure carbon dissolved in a molten metal solvent and is brought to 1,370 degrees C. under 850,000 pounds per square inch pressure. The carbon at the hotter end of the chamber migrates to the cooler end and attaches itself to the seed diamond; growing the crystal atom by atom.

*The Montreal Gazette, Jan.3, 2009*

#### **Tools Explained**

**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to make hoses too short.



Saturday, September 26 – The crew who took down Bertus Backer's tower (SK, VE1AGH) had decent weather and a good number of hands to do the job efficiently and safely. The high angle rescue gear was on hand (but didn't have to be exercised). Terry, VE1TRB; and Dave, VE1DDC, who worked on the tower were properly equipped and are certified. The project went well.

NASA's Mars Sample Laboratory unmanned mission is scheduled for launch in 2011. Two follow up missions are already being planned. The main purpose of the missions is to look for a 2nd genesis of life in the universe.

*Source: The Aug.12, 2009 Montreal Gazette*





More than 72 hams participated in the **2009 DX Forum** enjoying fellowship and the wonderful speakers. Half of the attendees were HARC members while others came from New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland, Ontario, British Columbia, the US Eastern seaboard, Japan and England



Roger, VE1SKY checks in at the registration desk



Hiro Ide, JA1WSX and Joe Iwakura, JA1LZR with HARC crests



Roger Western, G3SXW; John David, KB1T; Scot Wood, VE1QD; George Nicholson, N4GRN; Joe Taylor, K1JT; Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q; Murray Lycan, VE7HA/7J1AQH



New ham Andy Hong with Win, VE1WIN



George, VE1CAW with Murray Lycan, VE7HA/7J1AQH  
(If you want a JA call you have to start by becoming a citizen)



George Nicholson, N4GRN presented Murray, VE1MMD, with a QSL card from Desecheo Island



Frank Wilson, VE1FHW won the Cushcraft MA5V antenna

### **Tools Explained:** **ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:**

*A tool normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.*



The HARC Reflector is also available on the web, a little after the paper copy (photos in colour) by connecting to [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)

Happening October 24 & 25:  
CQ World Wide DX Contest, SSB  
10-10 International Fall Contest, CW

### **Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting September 16, 2009**

**Welcome:** President Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD, opened the meeting at 1733 hours.

**Silent keys:** Murray reported that Don Watters, VE1BN, died in August. Eric Davidson, VE1CBS, and Frank Carr, VE1IGE passed away. A moment of silence was observed.

#### **Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:** THAT the agenda be accepted with additions: under Executive recommendation: Old Business (1) Update on repeaters – VE1MR; (2) New Business point (4), the motion published in the Reflector for equipment; (3) Tom, VE1GTC, will speak of the upcoming advanced course.

Moved by Bill, VE1MR, Seconded by Tom, VE1GTC. Motion carried.

**Guests/visitors:** Guest Bob Schofield, VE1RSM, born in Wolfville and retired to Hantsport following a military career. Bob will give a presentation of his DXpedition to Alert.

**Membership** self-introduction followed.

#### **Minutes:**

**Motion:** THAT the minutes of the June regular meeting be approved as printed in the September Reflector. Moved by Bruce, VE1 MLW. Seconded by Doug, VE1LDL. Motion carried.

**Past President** – Bill, VE1MR, spoke of problems relating to the VE1PSR repeater which was not functioning; it was receiving but not transmitting. It has since been repaired.

**Treasurer:** Thanks were expressed to Rod, VE1BSK, who recently stepped down as club Treasurer due to illness in the family. Fraser, VE1WO, has agreed to fill the position until the end of the club's fiscal year. Fraser reported the income for the past month was \$1981.59, expenses totalled \$ , with an end-

ing balance of \$, 4388.06. See the attached report for details.

**Insurance:** Billing for the annual policy came due mid-June at which time \$900-plus was paid. However, club inventory had been reassessed, so HARC requested that policy be reviewed to include the increased inventory which includes the new trailer. An additional fee of \$573 was charged, increasing the budgeted for the year from \$925 to \$1473. An e-mail memo distributed to executive members for direction resulted in a consensus that the insurance be paid. Fraser extracted funds budgeted categories, including club insurance and trailer license inspection and insurance. He noted that our constitution allows a 20% over-extension without being presented to members and each category was extended by 20%, with the remaining \$49.26 needed being taken from the Trailer Contingency fund. The additional club inventory brought the 6-year old assessment up to date, effectively almost doubling documented club assets. In response to a question of future annual insurance cost, it is anticipated that the trailer insurance cost will remain at \$575. Licensing is \$60. At present, HARC deals with a broker and a review will be done to determine best placement of this account. It was noted that an insurance package advertisement in TCA for clubs is primarily for liability. Bill, VE1MR, explored that option a few years ago. Club insurance with an Ontario company was discussed with fees noted to be dependent upon the percentage of members who belong to RAC. A query of importance is whether or not insurance coverage includes the person and vehicle towing the trailer. Currently thought to cover PI/PD only, this point will be clarified by the executive.

**Motion:** THAT the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.

Moved by Fraser, VE1WO, Seconded by Doug, VE1 LDL. Motion carried.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Membership:** No update since last report of 4 Life, 130 Full and 22 Associate for a total of 156 members.

**Field Day:** Dick, VE1AI, reported that Field Day, held the last weekend of June, had a tremendous turnout and was a resounding success. HARC contacts totalled 8400 points: 1200 CW, 900 SSB 100 plus GOTA. Dick thanked all team captains and spoke of the incredible job Carol, VE1CBW, Frank, VE1FHW, and Tom, VE1GTC did with food preparation; Don, VE1DTR, was thanked for his management of software and logging; and Terry, VE1TRB for safety (HRM and EMO were both very happy with documentation). Photos taken by Terry, VE1TRB will be available for the Reflector. Safety and Security for the site were considerable; neither barricades nor yellow tape were challenged. The generators worked well. There was minimal interaction between the stations; 3 stations were going all week-end. Conditions were not as good as last year; however 80 and 40 meters were better. We should do well both nationally and overall. HARC tallied more than 1500 bonus points. The club could have utilized more operators at night. City police were in and did a great job patrolling. A provincial journal will publish the report HARC sent to EMO, whose managers were very pleased that the St. Andrews' site, the designated backup to EMO's primary site, was used for Field Day and that it worked so well. Unfortunately, on Sunday afternoon, additional members did not come in to help tear down or to help transport equipment back to Bloomfield, which had to be brought into St. Andrews, or put within the fenced area.

Dick noted that the Dartmouth club will concentrate on VHF and UHF, and does not plan to put HF back up. Dartmouth members are going to propose to the EMO that HARC be designated as the national backup to EMO for HF.

**DXForum:** Scott, VE1QD, pointed

*(Continued on page 7)*

*June Minutes (Continued from page 6)*

out that 2009 is the first year that the DXForum was held at MSVU as a stand-alone event. It drew 75 people, the program was excellent and we had more sponsors. George, VE1CAW, won the handheld and Frank, VE1FHW, won the Crushcraft antenna. Unfortunately a deficit of slightly over \$900 was incurred due to switch of primary presenters which cost organizers a short-term air ticket. Also, complimentary ticket expenses were not absorbed by ticket cost. Most speakers contributed directly having paid their own way. Representation of many provinces included BC, Ont., NL and all Atlantic provinces; others came from Maryland, Maine, NJ, Georgia and 2 hams from Japan. HARC members numbered 25 of 75 attendees.

**Motion:** THAT HARC cover the deficit.

Moved by Scott, VE1QD. Seconded by Win, VE1WIN.

A *Notice of Motion* will be placed in the upcoming Reflector to be voted on during the October meeting. The MSVU costs will be paid when invoiced and the remaining expenses are Scott's out-of-pocket costs.

Discussion: The anniversary forum incurred a deficit in 2008, with 2009 also experiencing a deficit. There is \$800 in Misc Expenses that can cover the expense. Scott has reviewed the event and will offer several suggestions that could be implemented for 2010 at the next general meeting. Information was submitted to QST which did not get published. HARC's DXForum was a world event with a Nobel Prize winner who developed software used internationally; certainly worthy of a write-up for publication. Motion carried.

**RAC:** Scott, VE1QD, will write Bob Cooke about the 2010 AGM to be hosted in NS. Scott will invite RAC to hold the AGM at 3 p.m. on Friday, which will be followed by the opening Reception with the DXForum on Saturday.

**Basic Course:** Barry, VE1TRI, reported inquiries from 15-20 people

and 10 or more have committed financially. Tomorrow is the first day. Some cannot come in but will attend the first class on Saturday. Students represent a variety of backgrounds. Barry noted that the new books do not have the CD-ROM database. HARC has been given a ten percent reduction on the cost of books for purchasing in bulk. Topic Instructors are in place; on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Gary, VE1GRB, will present on CW.

**QSL Bureau** – Tom, VE1GTC, reported the Bureau is functioning well. The use of the VE1FO call sign off-site use must clarified with Tom, VE1GTC, or, WIN, VE1WIN, being advised to avoid confusion of card distribution. Recently the bureau had 3000 cards dispersed and a new influx has been received. The Shediac Flea Market is this weekend; 200 cards are waiting transport to Halifax. Whenever members get a new two-letter callsign, or have an address change, they are asked to let Tom know and to advise RAC.

**Advanced Course** - Tom, VE1GTC, said there may still be a placement or two if members are interested. The time and start date are to be determined.

**EMO:** David, VE1AJP, reported a quiet summer despite hurricane and big winds.

**SAR:** David, VE1AJP, reported the SAR teams had been fairly busy noting a search on Canada Day was 23 years, almost to the hour, of the Warburton search.

**Nomination Committee:** Murray, VE1MMD, reported that David, VE1NN, has agreed to Chair the committee, with Fraser, VE1WO, and Tom, VE1GTC serving as committee members.

**Motion:** THAT David, VE1NN, be appointed as Chairman of the Nomination Committee. Moved by Doug, VE1LDL. Seconded by Barry, VE1TRI. No further nominations. Motion carried.

David, VE1NN, addressed the members and asked candidates to come forward and/or for members to make recommendations. Before doing so,

please speak with potential candidates and then contact David.

**Flea Market:** Tom, VE1BMJ, stated that May 15 is booked for the 2010 Flea Market. There is no known conflict with other clubs' activities for that date.

### **Old Business:**

**1. FT1000D** – Brian, VE1AZV, has been unable to contact Clarence regarding repair of this unit. Tom, VE1BMJ, noted that a friend in Toronto services equipment and charges by the job rather than the hour. If we could tell him what's wrong, he could give us an idea of what may be needed.

**ACTION:** VE1AZV, VE1BMJ

**2. Visitors:** Brian, VE1AZV, spoke with Chris Collins who is arranging for several youngsters between the ages of 9 and 14 years to visit HARC for a station tour.

**3. HARC Trailer Project** – Fraser, VE1WO, advised there that he and Bill, VE1MR, will meet to consider what is needed for additional wiring. Storage site location is needed soon as the trailer must be out of its current location by end Sept. Murray, VE1MMD, is in negotiations with the city counsellor.

**ACTION:** VE1WO, VE1MR

**4. HARC Inventory & Equipment Storage** – Dick, VE1AI, reported making many inquiries over the summer, including evaluating garage kits. A metal container 50 feet long, 8 feet wide, with a 9 foot ceiling and dry is available at a cost of \$3000. There would be room at Cowie Hill for it and Dick has spoken with Barry Manual, who will possibly get something from the city. Power should be easy to attain. Dick advised it is time to identify a member to spearhead this task. If purchase of one of 3 containers available is feasible, HARC should place a deposit soon.

**ACTION:** VE1AI

### **New Business:**

**1. Club apparel** – Murray, VE1MMD, displayed 3 sample jackets from

*(Continued on page 8)*



**From the Mail Bag****THE FINANCIAL SAGA OF THE DX FORUM**

from David Nimmo, VE1NN

From the Minutes of the last HARC meeting, you will note that HARC has been asked to “subsidize” the last DX Forum to the tune of \$900. This year the DX Forum spent \$900 more than its generated revenue. An item not to be decided upon without sober second thought.

The DX Forum was started “x” years ago by a couple of Club Members as an independent amateur event. It has grown steadily in both attendance and quality and last year moved from Tantallon to the larger and more expensive facilities at Mount St Vincent University. The attempt to merge with the Annual Downeast Fleamarket, with the hopes of further expansion, did not bear fruit with the result that the DX Forum organizers (all HARC members), have approached HARC to cover their current \$900 deficit.

Forum attendance has grown steadily, reaching 75 in 2009, of which 50% were HARC members.

This \$900 shortfall which YOU are being asked to cover, can be calculated several ways.

HARC is being asked to subsidize the DX Forum:

- (a) about \$12 for every Forum attendee, or
- (b) about \$27 for every HARC member that attended the event or,
- (c) \$6 from every HARC member’s membership fee!

To me, this situation is not satisfactory as, to my knowledge, HARC had minimal voice in the Forum’s planning. The Forum managers made all the financial decisions and, kept all their own financial records, such as they were.

Other questions that HARC members may wish to have answered, and should be answered before covering this shortfall, are:

- 1) Is this deficit going to become an annual expenditure for HARC ?
- 2) Should HARC have a representative on the DX Forum Planning Committee ?
- 3) Does the number of HARC members (50% of the attendees or about 25% of the HARC’s total membership) who participate warrant such a major expenditure by the Club for this event?
- 4) Should the DX Forum be a HARC sponsored event ?

YOU, as a HARC member, will be asked to vote on this \$900 motion at the upcoming HARC Meeting in mid-October.

The matter of whether or not the upcoming 2010 RAC AGM should be scheduled with the 2010 DX Forum (if there is one), or with the 2010 Annual Downeast Fleamarket, should also enjoy full and detailed discussion before advancing much further in its planning.

*September Minutes (Continued from page 7)*

Chandler’s in Bayer’s Park. Chandler’s will add the HARC crest in small lots, i.e., 6-12. Anyone who has-n’t signed up and is interested take a look, sign up and jackets will be ordered. The choices are:

- North End Techno Light – Shell (wind breaker) jacket. Cost \$30 includes crest +tax.
- StormTech – Cost, \$45 includes crest +tax.
- Cruise Polar Fleece jacket – Cost \$42 includes crest +tax

2. Tube bank – Tom, VE1BMJ, confirmed the 65 tubes donated by Bob Arthur via Rob Morrison, VE1REM, were received on Saturday and are currently stored in his garage. Alan, VE1ABM, will help sort and catalogue them. Some could be sold on e-bay. A management plan is needed.

ACTION: Tom, VE1BMJ

3. Climbing Protocol – Terry, VE1TRB, stated that 8 years ago HARC began qualifying hams for Fall-Protection to encompass to meet “due diligence” for the prevention of injury. This issue was discussed with Barry Manual and Bill, VE1MR, and it was learned that no-one is allowed to put on climbing gear, if not qualified. Without training, no one is allowed to get off the ladder, or get on the roof. HARC’s climbing protocol document was prepared with input from VE1MR, city personnel and others. It explains requirements for going off the ground and clothing required. The club president has a copy and a copy will be in the station. All members with Fall Protection Training will be sent a copy by email. It will also be placed on the web site. Terry noted there is a degree of record-keeping required. A High Angle rescue kit has been created by Terry, VE1TRB, and Bill, VE1MR, for less than \$300. Many assumed the Halifax Fire Dept would rescue a climber (there is only one high-angle rescue kit in the city). Terry stated that there should always be 2 people fall-protection trained on site. The ground crew don’t require being trained, nor do those in the middle of a roof. However, anyone within 3 feet of the edge must be trained. Plans are in process to conduct high-angle rescue training. The fire dept has asked to be invited to go out to practice with them. The region’s foremost rigger has agreed to come and address HARC to provide insight to actually working on towers.

4. Notice of Motion – A *Notice of Motion* THAT two radio cards be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$1000 will be placed in the Reflector. Moved by Bill, VE1MR Seconded by Jim, VE1JIM. Motion Carried. The cards are not expected to exceed \$800.

5. Advanced Course – Jeff Smith, VE1ZAC, has agreed to run an advanced technical course. He has 5-6 already. If interested email him directly,

*(Continued on page 9)*



## FALL PROTECTION TRAINING

This is a list of people available for work above ground;

Apr 05 2009

Name & Phone	Callsign	Fall Protection Expiry	Experienced	Has Own Gear	Work on Roof
Brian Allen 404-4215	VE1AZV	Apr 2012	N	N	Y
Howard Dickson 823-2024	VE1DHD	Apr 2012	N	N	Y
Ed Grace 443-3435	VE1EGG	Apr 2012			Y
Phil Bentley 826-2861	VE1PB	Apr 2012	Y		Y
Neil Hughes 823-7605	VE1YZ	Apr 2012	Y	Y	Y
Terry Bigelow 864-4125	VE1TRB	Apr 2012	Y	Y	Y
Wayne Harasimovitch 835-4865	VE1WPH	Mar 2011	Y	Y	Y
Shelly Smith	VA1CAT	Mar 2011			
Tom Cohoon 624-8931	VE1TA	Mar 2011	Y		Y
Tim Smith	VE1VWV	Mar 2011			
Dave A. Charbonneau 453-4549	VE1DDC	Mar 2011	Y	Y	Y
Sheldon Page	VE1SJP	Mar 2011	N	N	Y
Colleen Prentice	VE1PIE	Mar 2011	N	N	Y
John Bartlett	VE1OZ	Mar 2011	Y	N	Y

**Are you up to date with  
your HARC membership  
dues?**

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 +  
\$10 for each additional fam-  
ily member at same address  
(only 1 newsletter)**Keep our Club Station Ship-  
shape PLEASE!**We have a grand Club Station  
and I'm sure that everyone  
knows to clean up after your-  
self but also, PLEASE, any  
time you are the last person  
leaving the Club Station  
make sure that

- 1/ all windows are closed
- 2/ the air conditioners are off
- 3/ all radio equipment is  
turned off
- 4/ the lights are off
- 5/ the door is locked

September Minutes (Continued from page 8)

jfsmith@ns.sympatico.ca Capacity will be 6-8.

**6. Antenna course** – Brian, VE1AVZ, stated he could work with members on a one-on-one basis, but it was not possible during summer. He is willing to be available on a Saturday morning.

**7. JOTA** – Doug, VE1LDL, says a Scout leader asked about JOTA participation this year for both Scouts and Cubs. Doug will volunteer to run it but needs additional hands. It will be held at Camp Harris on Oct 17.

**Reports or announcements of general interest:** Fred, VE1FA, announced the Kings County Amateur Radio Club is raffling a Honda generator, a Honda EU2000. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. If preferred, the winner can take \$1000 cash in lieu of the generator (valued at \$1500)

**50/50 Draw:** Ralph, VE1RAR, won the 50/50 draw of \$20.

**Door Prize:** Dick VE1AI won the door prize, a set DVDs.

There being no further business, Doug, VE1LDL moved the meeting be adjourned at 2112 hours.

The speaker, Bob Schofield, VE1RSM, will give a presentation of his DXpedition to Alert.

Respectfully submitted, Helen MacRae, VE1HMR  
Secretary of H.A.R.C.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 37 September 18, 2009  
**South African Amateur Radio Payload Reaches Orbit:**  
After several delays, South Africa's SumbandilaSat satellite <<http://www.amsatsa.org.za/SZASAT.htm>> finally blasted to orbit aboard a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 16 <<http://www.russianspaceweb.com/baikonur.html>>. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. The CTCSS tone frequencies have yet to be announced. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace <<http://www.sunspace.co.za/>> in co-operation with the Stellenbosch University <<http://www.sun.ac.za/>>. In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

*How long a minute is depends what side of  
the bathroom door you're on.*

Visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian\\_Amateur\\_Radio\\_Group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group/)

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 36

In **South Africa**, an information technology company proved that it was **faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon** than to send it using Telkom, the country's leading Internet service provider. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa's largest economy are poor due to a shortage of bandwidth and its high cost. Local news agency SAPA reported that on Sept. 9, an 11 month old pigeon named Winston took 68 minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices near Pietermaritzburg to the coastal city of Durban with a data card strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds -- the time it took for only 4% of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line. SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. Internet speed is expected to improve once a new 11,000 mile underwater fiber optic cable linking southern and East Africa to other networks becomes operational before South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup next year.

#### **Early Canadian radio clubs:**

Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, VE5AA. The Dept. of Marine & Fisheries published a list of amateur radio stations which lists the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club with the call sign 4FB.

*Source – From Spark to Space*

Real-life Dilbert-comic-strip-type manager's quote from corporate America circa 2004:

*"What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter."* (Lykes Lines Shipping)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 31

**MFJ Acquires Cushcraft** On Aug.7, <<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/>> announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies <<http://www.lairdtech.com/>> effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other 5 companies," said Martin F. Jue, President & founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hygain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hygain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vecronics. The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 30  
**Space Shuttle Endeavour Deploys Student-Built Satellites**

Before leaving orbit to return to Earth on Friday, July 31, the space shuttle deployed 4 student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter (70 cm) amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor & Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the US Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE) <[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-AN\\_DE.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-AN_DE.html)>. Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz.

Castor and Pollux carry an FX.25 experiment that adds Forward Error Correction to standard AX.25 packets. The hope is that FX.25 will improve communication efficiency while still being compatible with existing packet equipment. The satellites also occasionally run GMSK/FX.25 modulation experiments at 9600 baud.

In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour also deployed student satel-

lites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2, respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 launched as one unit and then separated to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 transmits Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 beacons at 436.250 MHz. The satellites primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the US. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome <<http://paradigm.ae.utexas.edu/ops/>>.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

#### War History Item

SS Caribou was a passenger ferry used by the Newfoundland government's ferry service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney.

Caribou was torpedoed by the German U-boat U-69 and sunk in the Cabot Strait during the night of 14 October 1942. Caribou was carrying 46 crew and 206 civilian and military passengers. 137 lost their lives, many of them Newfoundlanders. Of the deceased, 2 were rescued but died of exposure. The remains of 34 victims were found. Only one of the eleven children survived.

*You can find more details on Wikipedia. Search for SS+Caribou -ed*

Check out the news on the Maritime Amateur Web site at

<http://www.freewebs.com/ve1jbl/maritimeneeds.htm>